Myths vs. Facts

**MYTH:** These Standards amount to a national curriculum for Lake County schools.
**FACT:** Academic standards are the “what” – the knowledge and skills – students are required to learn at each grade level. Curriculum and instruction are the “how” – the materials and delivery methods – students are taught.

**MYTH:** The Standards will be implemented through No Child Left Behind (NCLB) - signifying that the federal government will be leading them.
**FACT:** The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort that is not part of No Child Left Behind and adoption of the Standards is in no way mandatory. States began the work to create clear, consistent standards before the Recovery Act or the Elementary and Secondary Education Act blueprint was released because this work is being driven by the needs of the states, not the federal government.

**MYTH:** No teachers were involved in writing the Standards.
**FACT:** Florida educators were involved in the writing of the Standards. The Florida Department of Education reviewed and provided feedback prior to the release of the final set of Standards. The Standards were built on international benchmarks and enable Lake County students to compete with peers on both national and international levels.

**MYTH:** The Standards will erode students’ privacy rights or allow the federal government to inappropriately “track” students.
**FACT:** Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), student information cannot be released without prior written consent from a parent or legal guardian. Nothing related to the implementation of the Common Core State Standards will result in any changes to sharing private student information and data. The only disclosure exceptions pertain to health and safety emergencies, school transfers, referral to state and local authorities for compliance, or release to research organizations.

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A quick reference guide to frequently asked questions about Florida's adoption of a new set of academic standards called Common Core State Standards

High academic standards, shared across states, are an important first step in ensuring that all students have the tools they need for success. A state-led effort to establish a shared set of clear educational standards for language arts and mathematics are designed to ensure that students graduating from high school are college or career ready.
Common Core: Adoption & Overview

Standards adoptions occur frequently in education. In 2010, Florida's State Board of Education adopted a new set of academic standards called the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). These standards will be fully implemented across K-12 classrooms in the 2014-15 school year.

How are academic standards adopted in Florida?
Florida Statute states that the State Board of Education shall adopt and periodically review and revise the Sunshine State Standards. Florida followed this process to the CCSS as it was the same process used to adopt all previous Florida academic standards. Florida’s Legislature does not adopt academic standards and the federal government is not involved in the development or adoption of state academic standards. Florida’s adoption of the CCSS has been entirely voluntary, as it is for each state.

What is the difference between current standards and the CCSS?
Florida’s academic standards were already strong under the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS). However, CCSS enhance the focus and depth of academic standards – without sacrificing high expectations for students. As has been the practice with Florida’s previous standards, the Florida Department of Education reviewed the CCSS for supplemental needs. There is a difference in standards and curriculum. It is important to note that the CCSS only outline what content students need to learn; educators determine how to teach that content.

How will the CCSS improve student achievement?
The CCSS are designed to ensure every student is college and career ready. The CCSS are clearer and deeper than previous academic standards. The CCSS are actually more rigorous and focus on in-depth mastery of topics as opposed to previous standards that were characterized as “a mile wide but only an inch deep.” They are more robust and reflect relevant knowledge and skills necessary after high school. Students who show mastery of the knowledge and skills encompassed in the CCSS will have higher critical thinking skills, show better conceptual understanding and stronger applied learning experience.

Previous standards have typically been very vague and required only a shallow understanding of information. The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) focus on mastering concepts and applying learning in a real-world setting. Below are just a few standards that show why the Common Core standards provide Lake County students a stronger education than Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS).

THIRD-GRADE WRITING STANDARD:
CCSS: With guidance and support from adults, use technology to produce and publish writing (using keyboard skills) as well as to interact and collaborate with others.
NGSSS: The student will write a final product for the intended audience.

SIXTH-GRADE MATHEMATICS STANDARD:
CCSS: Distinguish comparisons of absolute value from statements about order. For example, recognize that an account balance less than $30 represents a debt greater than $30.
NGSSS: Use and justify the rules for adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing and finding the absolute value of integers. (Note: Absolute value is not mentioned until seventh grade.)

SEVENTH-GRADE READING STANDARD:
CCSS: Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims.
NGSSS: The student uses a variety of strategies to comprehend grade level text.

HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS STANDARD:
CCSS: Recognize and explain the concepts of conditional probability and independence in everyday language and everyday situations. For example, compare the chance of having lung cancer if you are a smoker with the chance of being a smoker if you have lung cancer.
NGSSS: Determine probabilities of independent events. Understand and use the concept of conditional probability.